

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 PA-01 SIL-01 PRS-01 INRE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY ARA:NC:TWSONANDRES

APPROVED BY ARA:NC - MR. JOHNSON

USDOC/BIC - MR. BREWER (PHONE)

ARA/NC/C - MR. MAISTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, VE

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL DIFFICULTIES IN VENEZUELA OF
DISNEY-ON-PARADE

1. MR. DICK CURD, INTERNATIONAL MARKETING DIRECTOR FOR DISNEY-ON-PARADE, PHONED ARA/NC/V FOR ASSISTANCE IN SHOW'S CARACAS STAND. FYI: DISNEY-ON-PARADE IS A LOS ANGELES-BASED OPERATION, JOINTLY PRODUCED BY NBC AND DISNEY, IS CURRENTLY ON A LATIN AMERICAN TOUR, IS NOW IN CALI, AND SCHEDULED FOR CARACAS PERFORMANCES EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. PROBLEM HAS BEEN CALI-TO-CARACAS TRANSPORTATION FOR SHOW'S PROPS WHICH, IDEALLY, REQUIRE TWO DC-8 STRETCH JETS. ACCORDING TO MR. CURD, VIASA FIRST AGREED TO PROVIDE SUCH AIRCRAFT ONLY TO RENEGE LATER, ADMITTING THAT VIASA, IN FACT, WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE THEM. SUBSEQUENTLY, CALIFORNIA-BASED OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRWAYS WAS CONTRACTED, BUT THIS ARRANGEMENT ALSO FELL THROUGH WHEN GOV DIRGEN
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CIVIL AVIATION, DESPITE DISNEY-ON-PARADE APPEALS, REFUSED

LANDING RIGHTS. FLYING TIGERS DC-8 THEN CONTRACTED TO MAKE TWO CALI-TO-CARACAS FLIGHTS, EVIDENTLY DID OBTAIN GOV APPROVAL, AND WILL DEPART FOR CALI SATURDAY, MAY 17. DIFFICULTIES HAVE ALREADY CAUSED OPENING NIGHT CANCELLATION, LOSS OF \$300,000 ANTICIPATED REVENUES, AND PROBABILITY THAT SHOW WILL ONLY MEET EXPENSES DURING VENEZUELAN STAND.

3. THOUGH PROBLEM EVIDENTLY RESOLVED, MR. CURD MADE TWO REQUESTS: (1) WOULD EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER, WHO PROVIDED HELPFUL BACKGROUND INFORMATION MONTHS AGO, CONTACT LOCAL DISNEY-ON-PARADE REP, MR. GENE COLUMBUS, AT HILTON HOTEL QUOTE RESIDENCIAS UNQUOTE APARTMENT SECTION, TO TOUCH BASE AND HOPEFULLY ASSIST SHOULD FUTURE PROBLEM ARISE AND (2) COULD EMBASSY PROVIDE HIM WITH EXPLANATION FOR ABOVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES. IN MAKING REQUESTS, MR. CURD CAUTIONED THAT NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD POSSIBLY JEOPARDIZE PRESENT FLYING TIGER ARRANGEMENTS.

ACTION REQUEST: EMBASSY, IF IT HAS NO OBJECTION, REQUESTED TO CONTACT MR. COLUMBUS AND OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE. DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE, IF POSSIBLE, STATUS REPORT BY COB FRIDAY, MAY 16, ON SHOW TO FORWARD TO MR. CURD. KISSINGER

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